Equipment for three services

3971. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sukhoi fighter aircrafts purchased for the IAF have proved to be non-performing and the submarines purchased for the Indian Navy are grossly underpowered;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the existing procedure of procuring equipment machinery etc. for the three services Army, Navy and the IAF;

(d) whether any experts in the field are involved in the decision-making process ;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any critical review of the existing procedure has been made by Government to identify the grey areas in defence purchases to take remedial measures; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Defence has laid down a detailed procedure for procurement of weapons/weapon systems and equipment for meeting the requirements of Armed Forces in 1992. According to this procedure, experts from the three services, DRDO and inspection agencies are involved at almost every stage of the procurement process starting with laying down the specifications to the eventual induction of the equipments in service.

(f) and (g) With the objective of ensuring optimal utilisation of resources placed at the disposal of the Defence Ministry, Government continuously endeavour to improve Defence procurement procedures for ensuring flexibility in procedures, wherever required and achieve higher levels of efficiency and

accountability. To achieve these objectives, Defence procurement procedures are subjected to continuous examination/review through in-house arrangements within Ministry of Defence.

Displacement by the Sea Bird Project

3972. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH : Will the MINISTER of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has sought the enhancement of central funds for rehabilitation and resettlement of persons displaced by the Sea Bird Project in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the amount of enhancement sought; and

(c) the steps, if any, taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Karnataka have requested for a gross additional fund of Rs. 46.59 crores for rehabilitation of project displaced Families.

(c) The proposal for enhancement of rehabilitation package is under active consideration of the Government.

User trials of Trishul

3973. SHRI VED PRAKASH P. GOYAL : Will the MINISTER of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Navy's new warship INS Brahmaputra is waiting for its main weapon system "Trishul" and it has not been given to the Navy for user trials so far;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereon;

(c) by when the weapon is expected; and

(d) the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) The Naval version of Trishul is undergoing various phases of trials. Sea trials are planned for middle of 2001.